Improvement in the Relation with Bangladesh

488. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Bangladesh Treaty on the sharing of Ganga river waters and Prime Minister's recent visit to Dhaka have brought about improvement in the relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether any specific steps have been taken by Government with the Government of Bangladesh so far about 50 camps of ISI operating on its soil or insurgent activities in India's North Eastern States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir, With the signing of Ganges Water sharing Treaty between India and Bangladesh on December 12, 1996, and with the visit of Prime Minister to Dhaka from January 6-7, 1997, India-Bangladesh relations have now been placed on a more cordial and constructive basis.

(b) and (c) Our concerns at the activities of insurgents in North Eastern States by Inter Services Intelligence have been taken up on a regular basis with the Government of Bangladesh. During Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka, we were assured of efforts to eliminate any kind of terrorism or insurgency that may affect our security.

Visit of Prime Minister to Mauritius

489. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of India accompanied by Minister of External Affairs visited Mauritius recently and held discussions with Prime Minister of Mauritius on bilateral and global issues;

(b) whether the Prime Minister also participated in the meeting of 8th Session of the Indo-Mauritius Joint Commission; and

(c) if so, the details of outcome of the above discussions, the amount of aid given by India to Mauritius?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Agreed Minutes of the Joint Commission meeting were, however, signed on February 5, 1997 in the presence of the Prime Ministers of the two countries;

(c) The discussions reflected a close identity of views on regional and international issues and a common commitment to impart new content to bilateral relations. The Joint Commission identified several new cooperation projects. India has offered to Mauritius training facilities and expert services under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. An Agreement was concluded for a line of credit of US $3 million to finance imports by Mauritius of capital goods, consumer durables and consultancy services from India. The Prime Minister announced a grant assistance of Rs. 20 lakhs towards construction of a memorial by the Government of Mauritius at the 'Apravasi Ghat', where the first batch of indentured labour from India landed in 1834. The Government of India would also finance an appropriate project to be identified by the Government of Mauritius at I lot village in Mauritius, which the Prime Minister visited.

Seizure of Pak Boats in Kutch

490. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned

'Pak boats with arms seized in Kutch' appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated 24th January, 1997;

(b) whether two Pakistani mechanised boats were intercepted near Jakhau in the Gulf of Kutch carrying arms and ammunition;

(c) the number of Pakistani vessels carrying arms intercepted inside the territorial waters of India during the last one year;

(d) whether the matter has been taken up with the Pakistan Government; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only one boat carrying arms and ammunition has been intercepted by BSF on 17th January, 1997, near Koteshwar in Kori Creek.

(c) As per reports available, no other Pakistani vessel carrying arms was intercepted inside the territorial waters of India during the last one year.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The matter regarding interception of one boat on 17th January, 1997 is being investigated further.

Residential Plots/Houses for Veteran Freedom Fighters

491. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken to make available residential plots/houses to homeless veteran freedom fighters and widow of freedom fighters of "Indian National Army" on the priority basis;

(b) whether the requests for allotment of residential plots/houses to the homeless freedom fighters of Indian National Army and widows of freedom fighters of INA are still pending; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies, and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Kashmir militants to train Assam and Manipur fundamentalists

492. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kashmiri militants have been inducted by the Pakistan-based Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) to train Muslim fundamentalists from Assam and Manipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) While there is no information specifically about the induction of Kashmiri Militants, there are reports to suggest the involvement of Pakistan-based Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) to train Muslim fundamentalists from Assam and Manipur.

(c) The activities of various insurgent groups and Muslim fundamentalists active in the North Eastern States, including the States of Assam and Manipur, are kept under surveillance and appropriate decisions taken from time to time.

Seizure of Arms in Purulia

493. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the CBI seized two more AK 56 rifles and a rocket launcher at purulia on November 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and